Haunt Couture

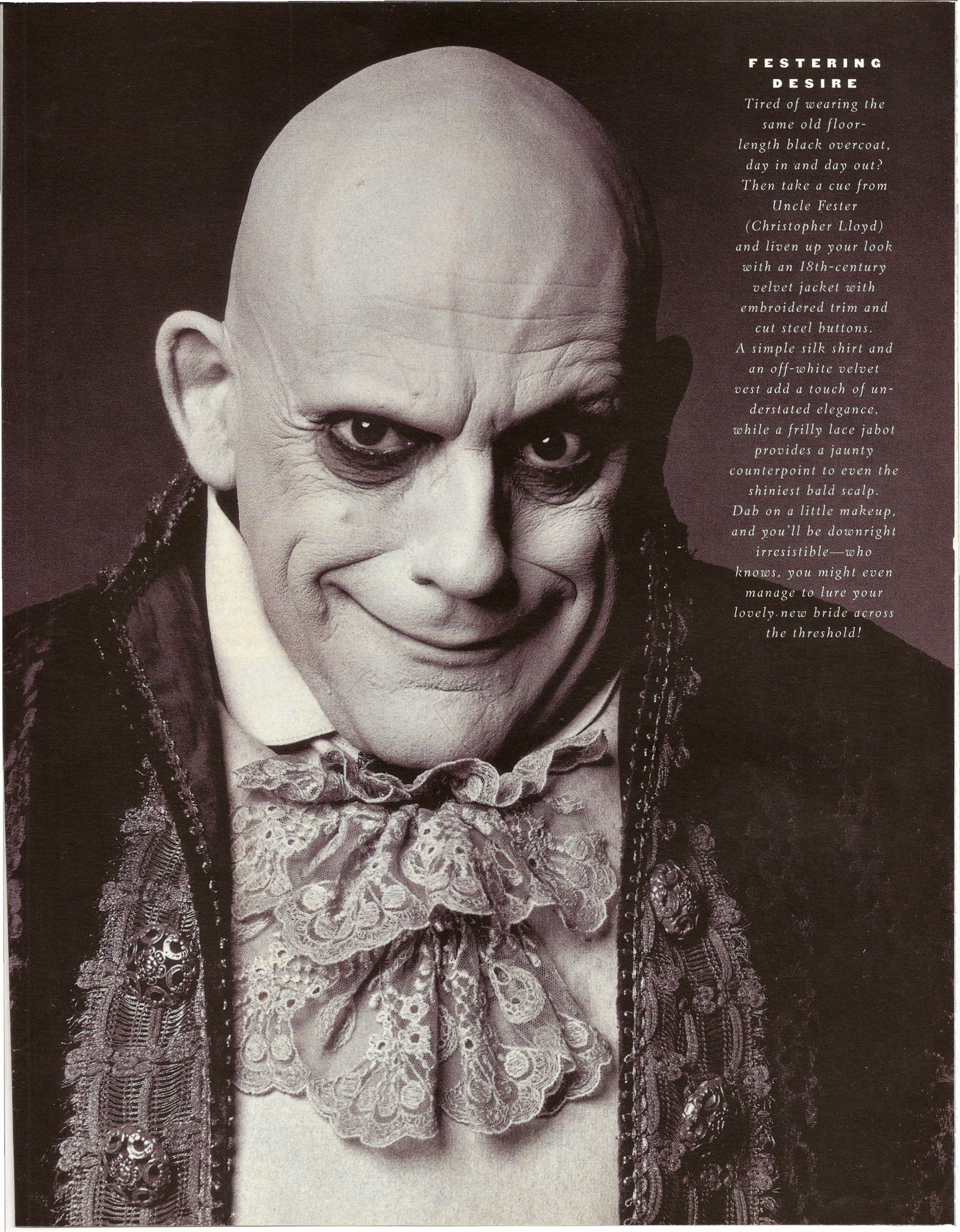


This winter, death is all the rage – and the sepulchral stars of *Addams Family Value* have it in spades. Decked out for the marriage of their beloved Uncle Fester, they prove that a wedding can be just as glamorous and exciting as any funeral. Get ready to drop dead, gorgeous! Text by Christopher Bagley. Costumes by Theoni V. Aldredge.

Photography by Firooz Zahedi

CONNUBIAL BLITZ

Is she a blushing bride or a gold-digging black widow serial killer? Addams nanny Debbie Jellinsky (Joan Cusack, above) keeps everybody guessing in this off-white silk taffeta and organza gown with ballet sleeves. Her headpiece is adorned with white stephanotis, her silk net veil edged in lace. The bouquet: tiny pink and white rosebuds, baby's breath, and miniature plastic cherubs. (Okay, so she still has a few things to learn.) Cheap rhinestone jewelry is all she can afford right now—but you can bet she's already figured out where Morticia stashes the family diamonds.



FESTERING DESIRE

Tired of wearing the same old floor-length black overcoat, day in and day out? Then take a cue from Uncle Fester (Christopher Lloyd) and liven up your look with an 18th-century velvet jacket with embroidered trim and cut steel buttons. A simple silk shirt and an off-white velvet vest add a touch of understated elegance, while a frilly lace jabot provides a jaunty counterpoint to even the shiniest bald scalp. Dab on a little makeup, and you'll be downright irresistible—who knows, you might even manage to lure your lovely new bride across the threshold!



DEAD RINGERS

As all fashion-conscious Siamese twins know, two heads aren't always better than one—especially when they disagree about what to wear. But these stylish ensembles will leave no room for argument. The gents—not Siamese, but then nobody's perfect (Lonn and Sean Wade, above)—go the waif way in their antique woolen military jackets with velvet trim, gray silk stocks, and lace jabots. Flora and Fauna (Maureen and Darlene Levin, left) opt for black lace over pink and purple taffeta. The hoop skirts, ruffled sleeves, and lace gloves come together in a tried-and-true look that's part Scarlett O'Hara, part Carmen Miranda, part tea cozy.





RIGOR MORTICIA

Whether she's slaving over a hot cauldron or just wiling away the afternoon in her torture chamber, Morticia Addams (Anjelica Huston) always stretches the haunted hausfrau look to its most elegant extreme. What's her secret? The outfit, of course: a skintight, floor-length black velvet gown embroidered with jet, hematite, and amethyst. On the cuffs, shredded strips of silk chiffon and lace provide up-to-the-minute deconstructionist accents. Though it's nearly impossible for Morticia to walk, she doesn't mind. She'll keep the outfit on all day, until Gomez gets home—when it's time to slip into something even less comfortable.